THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) As per the Exim Policy, the export of basmati rice is free, subject to registration of contract with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). The export of non-basmati rice is entirely free.

2. In view of the surplus stocks of rice in the Central Pool, the available rice is being supplied through the Food Corporation of India to Public Sector Undertakings, State Agencies and private exporters for purpose of export. For the rice offered from the Central Pool stocks, the exporters are allowed operational allowance of 2% on Bill of Lading in rice shipment and are required to submit export documents for the remaining 98% of the quantity lifted from the FCI. Indian exporters (who lift stocks from the FCI) are exploring the overseas markets and competing with others. Appropriate steps are taken to facilitate Indian exports, from time to time, depending upon the prevailing circumstances.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Industrial development in Assam

922. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rural industries development schemes under implementation in Assam;

(b) the increase in production and employment registered in these industries; and

(c) the details of the funds allotted/sanctioned, released and utilised for this purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM) : (a) The Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) promotes development of rural industries by way of financial, technical and managerial assistance, besides, the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) is implemented throughout the country (including the State of Assam). Under this scheme, 25% of the project cost is provided as margin money). For project cost above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25

lakhs, the rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% of the balance cost of the project. For weaker sections, tribal areas, North Eastern Region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, the margin money grant is 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for balance amount (upto Rs. 25 lakhs). It is 10%. The beneficiary is required to invest his own contribution of 10% of the project cost. In case of SC/ ST and other weaker sections, beneficiary's a contribution is 5% of the project cost.

(b) the details of the production and employment under rural industries in Assam during last 3 years are as under:—

Year	Production (value in lakhs)	Employment (No. in lakhs)
1999-00	4047-85	0.98
2000-01	4671.91	1.01
2001-02	5036.68	1.04

(c) The details of funds sanctioned/released and utilized under the REGP in the past three years in the States are as under:—

Year	Total (in lakhs)
1999-00	15.78
2000-01	27.94
2001-02	143.00

Khadi and Gramodyog Commission

†923. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any plan to expand branches of the Khadi Gramodyog throughout the country through the Khadi and Gramodyog Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.